



January 2, 2024

Whitewater Ontario (WO), Ottawa River Runners (ORR), and Canoe Kayak Canada (CKC) are happy to share with you that WO and ORR will continue to offer an Ontario-based slalom development and high-performance coaching program in 2024. Thanks to continued support from our community and the Coaching Association of Ontario's Quest for Gold coach-wage subsidy program, we are thrilled to continue supporting paddlers that want to join an annual slalom high performance program or a semi-annual development program.

We had a fantastic first year. ORR Head Coach Jen Gratto, with the support of a number of different instructors, expanded ORR and WO's youth paddling base and is working hard with stakeholders to create a financially sustainable coaching model. We had a year full of training and competition opportunities for Ontario's athletes. Ontario athletes also had great outcomes at the Whitewater National Championships held in Minden Hills, Ontario. Ontario also won the Brian Greer Cup which is the Provincial Team title awarded to the province with the most points at Nationals.

The financial stability of the high-performance program is essential in ensuring that this program will thrive in the years ahead. We want to ensure that our organizations can continue to provide opportunities for Ontario athletes to have access to high quality training groups and coaching support that is needed to strengthen our paddling base. As such, we see this program as a three-way partnership between club, provincial and national organization and we will continue to work together to maintain the sustainability of this program.

Prior partnerships have struggled to find the optimal recipe needed to maintain financial stability of club and provincial high performance coaching programs. Consequently, our goal is to present an aligned athlete development pathway that is centered around cooperation while enabling Ontario athletes to train in developmentally appropriate training groups based on their stage of development and commitments to training.

Our expectation is that all Ontario based high performance athletes except CKC Sport Canada carded athletes will join this program to have access to ORR, WO, and CKC's coaching support and daily training environment.

We hope that you are equally excited to see this programming continue, and we look forward to supporting your personal development this season and for many years ahead!

**Whitewater Ontario Competition  
Director**

**Ottawa River Runners Head  
Coach**

**Canoe Kayak Canada Slalom High  
Performance Manager**

*Spencer Pomeroy*

*Jen Gratto*

*James Cartwright*